

WHO'S THEO? Part 5
"DARE TO HOPE!"
Pastor Bill Bush
February 21, 2010

What I think about God shapes my whole relationship with Him, and what I believe He thinks about me will determine how close I grow toward Him!

BIG IDEA:
God is FAITHFUL!

A Divine Attribute:

Whatever God has in any way revealed as being true of Himself, expressed in all that He does, without contradiction, harmonizing and blending into each other in the infinite essence of the Triune God. All that God IS agrees with all that He DOES!

Definition of God's FAITHFULNESS: God's Word is true regardless of any circumstantial evidence to the contrary. He keeps his promises. He is consistent with His character. He will come through for you 100% of the time in any and every situation forever.

Lamentations 3:22-23, 1-20 (NLT) "I still dare to hope..."

- We all depend on something or someone to "hold us up" inside.
- When that something or someone is "coming through for us," we experience a sense of peace, satisfaction and optimism about the future.
- When that something or someone "fails to come through for us" we experience a sense of anxiety, dissatisfaction and ultimately despair.

CLUE: *recognize* God's faithfulness when ...

- I am weak. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- I am tempted. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- I sin. 1 John 1:9
- I fail. 2 Timothy 2:1, 11-13; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

...AND *respond* to God's faithfulness!

- Hand over your past and present problems, pain and failures to Jesus today! 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 12; Matthew 11:28-30
- Place your hope for the future in the One who will never let you down! Lamentations 3:21-24

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SHARPEN THE POINT
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For further study of today's message

Entry Point: Many of us may identify with Simon Peter in his early life. He was apt to blurt out the first thing that came into his head. He was impulsive in his actions, and not necessarily all that humble or reverent at appropriate times. Jesus not only accepted Simon as he was, but knew what he would become. The Lord called him Peter – which means "rock." He knew that Peter would question Him, and challenge Him at times. He also knew that he would deny Him three times before His death. But because of His perfect character, the Lord remained faithful to Peter even when Peter was not faithful to Him. Begin your study by reading Matthew 16:13-19.

What nickname do you think the Lord would choose for you and why? Knowing that you are *who* God says you are -*not* who the world says you are – how would you live your life in order to live up to that nickname? What changes would you have to make?

Discuss what faithfulness means to you. How has God been faithful to you in ways you may not have recognized until later?

Peter questioned Jesus when He prepared to wash the disciples' feet before the Passover meal. Read John 13:12-17. When have you been unfaithful to God because you questioned a situation in which you found yourself? How has God taught you a lesson in a totally unexpected way?

*"For he loves us with unfailing love;
The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the LORD!"
Psalm 117:2 (NLT)*

*"If we are faithless,
He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."
2 Timothy 2:13*